

Meeting Minutes
Gulf Cove Waterway Benefit Unit Advisory Committee
February 27, 2014 – Regular Meeting
2:00 p.m. – Building Construction Services Conference Room

Attendees: Arthur Jozwiak, Ron Kubala, Joel Trefry, and Edward Speer

Absent: John "Steve" Eckstrom (excused)

County staff: Chuck Mopps, Judith Nothdurft, and Sandy Wright

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. with a roll call that established a quorum present.

The committee and membership terms were reviewed.

The Minutes from October 22, 2013 were unanimously approved as written.

Election of Officers:

1. The committee agreed to postpone the nomination for chair until the next meeting.
2. Mr. Jozwiak nominated Mr. Trefry as vice, there were no other nominations; Mr. Trefry accepted the nomination.

Unfinished Business:

Future Dredge Options

- **Canal Research** - As noted at the last meeting, Mr. Trefry checked the depths of 5 canal entrances in the southern portion of the Waterway Unit starting with Early Waterway. At a tide of - 0.3, the depths ranged from 2.9 ft. to 4.0 ft. He stated that he was able to turn around his 20 foot boat in all of the canals.
- **Markers** - There was discussion regarding citizens marking their own canals; the markers have been removed leaving the canals hard to navigate unless you know exactly where to go. Mr. Mopps suggested installing pilings to mark the canals and said that West Coast Inland Navigation District (WCIND) would likely help with the funding. He estimated 70 markers at a cost of \$1,000 each for a total cost of approximately \$70,000. Mr. Mopps thought that WCIND may possibly fund 30 markers. Mr. Trefry noted that there were no complaints from the public at this time.
- **WCIND Proposed Rule Development** – there was a discussion about starting a separate program to maintain the access channels. The Committee may be able to get future funding assistance because it is WCIND's responsibility to maintain the Myakka River Channel. Mr. Mopps stated that he has starting pursuing this on behalf of the Committee and recommended that members attend the WCIND Workshop on April 1, 2014 at 2:00 p.m. or 6:00 p.m. at the Charlotte Harbor Event Center. The Workshop will discuss a proposed General Permit for Public Navigation Channels and Canal Infrastructure by the West Coast Inland Navigation District within Charlotte County. WCIND doesn't want 3-4 separate canals going out to the Myakka River; they would prefer one combined access channel to minimize impact and cost. The Rule making process will take several years.
- **MSBU Funded Dredging Options** -There was discussion surrounding the available funds in the MSBU Budget. There was also discussion regarding a maintenance permit to maintain the mouths of the canals to a 4ft. or 5ft. depth and leave the inner canals at 4ft. Mr. Mopps recommended doing a small project to dredge at least 100 feet into the mouths of the canals out to the distance previously permitted into the access channels. Each canal goes out into the river a different footage. This project could probably be accomplished in 90-180 days. There is almost \$600,000 budgeted in FY 2013/14. Permitting and paperwork will take until October 2014, which would be into the new fiscal year (FY 2014/15). The Committee could choose to permit to 5 foot and then scale the project back to 4 or 4.5 based on the funds available in the budget after the engineering estimate is complete. Approximately 50% of the budget would be used to do this. Estimates will be provided at 5ft and 4ft and brought back to the Committee to decide if they want to proceed and at what depth.

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Mr. Speer made a motion to go forward with a maintenance program to dredge from the access channels to 100ft into the mouths of the canals to a 5ft depth. There was further discussion regarding the advantages and disadvantages to moving forward with getting this estimate and a possible maintenance dredge inside the canals in 3 years. If the Committee approves moving forward with this motion, Mr. Mopps will proceed with a Request for Letters of Interest (RLI) and hire a contractor. The Committee can review the survey results from the engineering portion and discuss how to proceed and adjust the depth if needed. Mr. Speer amended his motion to move forward with the engineering required for the Committee to proceed with a work program to dredge the access channels 100ft into the mouths of the canals to a 5ft depth; the motion was seconded by Mr. Joswiak and passed unanimously.

New Business:

- Financial Reports – Financial History, 3 Month Actual, and Activity reports were distributed for review and questions. The Committee asked what the meaning of External Borrowing. Ms. Nothdurft will follow up.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 29, 2014 at 3:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Submitted by:



Sandy Wright
Public Works Department